

United States
Department Of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Shasta-Trinity
National Forests

Lat 41.54856 Lon -123.63387

Reply To: 3420

Date: June 8, 1990

Subject: Biological Evaluation of Dying Port-Orford-cedar on
Road 14N17, Ukonom RD (FPM Rept. No. N90-5)

To: Forest Supervisor, Klamath NF

On June 4, 1990, Dave Schultz, Entomologist, and I visited an area of dead and dying Port-Orford-cedar (POC) on the Ukonom Ranger District with Gene Graber, TMA, Orleans RD, Paul Montgomery, Reforestation Culturist, Ukonom RD, and Max Creasy, Botanist, Klamath NF. Paul and Max had visited this area and were suspicious that POC root disease, caused by Phytophthora lateralis, might be present. The POC were in a drainage below Road 14N17 (T. 13 N., R. 5 E., section 4).

We observed 8 dead or dying POC below the road. It appeared that the trees had started dying 2 to 3 years ago. Only 2 trees were in the smaller size classes. The remaining were of a commercial size. The dead and dying trees were surrounded by apparently healthy sapling and pole-size POC in the drainage. The dying trees had scattered dead and green branches in their crowns. Examination of the base of the dying trees did not reveal the characteristic staining of the phloem caused by POC root disease. What we did find was a heavy infestation of the inner bark by flat-headed and round-headed wood borers. Some of the trees had resin flows from the upper boles suggesting the presence of cedar bark beetles.

The cause of this pocket of mortality appears to be stress-related, primarily from the continuing drought. The insects found in these trees generally attack trees of low vigor. Stand and tree conditions do not suggest POC root disease. The Region is experiencing increased tree mortality this year because of the drought and this is to be expected in POC also.

I encourage District and Forest personnel to continue to submit reports of any suspicious POC mortality for FPM to examine. If POC root disease is discovered on the Klamath NF, the sooner it is found and identified, the greater will be the options in controlling its spread.

/s/ Gregg DeNitto

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